Use of iron-ore fines

2242. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large quantities of iron-ore fines are generated in the course of mining;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these fines are dumped as waste resulting into loss of our natural resources;

(c) if so, whether Government would make it compulsory for mine owners to set up modern plants, so as to beneficiate poor grade lump ore and iron-ore fines; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) As per available information, Iron Ore Fines are generated as a part of the mining process of iron ore. There is a limited utilization of Fines by domestic steel industry. At present surplus fines generated in mining are being exported. The National Mineral Policy encourages mineral sectoral value addition through latest techniques of benefication, calibration, blending, sizing, concentration, pelletisation, purification and general customisation of product. However, such initiatives are guided by commercial factors of production, economic viability and demand from end-use industries.

Objections to Mineral Policy

2243. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the draft Mineral Policy, 2008 would do gross injustice to the mineral rich States as it has violated the interests of Orissa, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh;

(b) whether the above policy does not put emphasis on value addition within the State and reduces the scope for generation of employment opportunities/revenue for the State;

(c) whether this anti-mineral bearing States policy has been voiced against on the floor of the House time and again; and

(d) if so, what is the action plan of Government to address the grievances of these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Government had received representation from some states on the new National Mineral Policy, 2008 raising concerns on the need to allow the State Government to give preference to value addition within the state and allow preferential treatment in grant of mineral concessions to PSUs. These issues had been considered and appropriately addressed by the Government before